

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-11 are canceled herein. Claim 9 is amended herein and rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of original claims 1 and 6. No new matter is presented. Accordingly, upon entry of the amendment, claim 9 will be the only claim pending in the application.

I. Drawings

Box 10 is checked on the Office Action Summary sheet regarding drawings filed on November 4, 2003. However, Applicants note that no drawings were filed in this case. Clarification of this matter is respectfully requested for the record.

II. Response to Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-8 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Koike et al (U.S. Pub. No. 20030104175 A1).

Claims 1-8 and 10-11 are canceled herein, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 9 is amended herein and rewritten in independent form including the elements of claims 4 and 6. Thus, claim 9 is allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully withdrawal of the objection to claim 9.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

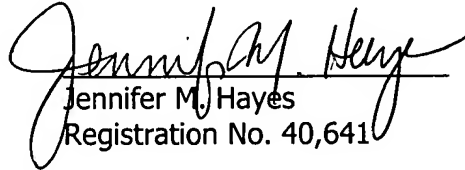
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